

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A self-contained power disruption alert device, comprising:
 - a housing with a plurality of male conductors extending outwardly therefrom, the male conductors sized and configured to enter an electrical wall outlet to be in electrical communication therewith;
 - an electronic circuit in the housing and configured to respond to a power disruption in the electrical wall outlet;
 - a battery receiving space disposed on and/or in the housing and sized and configured to hold a battery to be in electrical communication with the electronic circuit to power the electronic circuit; and
 - a speaker in communication with the electronic circuit, wherein, in operation, an audible alert is output by the speaker when power to the electrical wall outlet is disrupted, and wherein the device is self-contained.
2. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, in combination with a releaseably mountable battery positioned in the battery receiving space on/in the housing in electrical communication with the electronic circuit to power the electronic circuit when power to the electrical wall outlet is disrupted.
3. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to be portable and useable in different wall outlets as desired by a user.
4. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is devoid of externally extending wires and wireless signal transmitters and generates the audible alert signal only locally.
5. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, further comprising a female electrical outlet disposed on the housing, the female electrical outlet sized and configured to receive male conductors therein and electrically connect the male conductors to the wall electrical outlet.

6. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, further comprising a timer in communication with the electronic circuit configured for determining a duration of the power disruption.

7. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 6, further comprising an externally viewable display for providing a numerical value of the duration of the power disruption.

8. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 7, wherein the display is a digital display configured to output a time measure of the power disruption duration in hours and minutes.

9. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 7, wherein the display is a digital display configured to output the power disruption duration in days, hours and minutes.

10. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 7, further comprising a manual externally accessible reset configured to allow a user to clear the timer and/or display for a subsequent power disruption.

11. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 10, wherein the electronic circuit comprises a processor that provides the timer that is in communication with the display.

12. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, wherein, in operation, the device is configured to output a pre-recorded voice message.

13. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic circuit comprises a microprocessor configured with electronic memory having at least one prerecorded message that is configured to be transmitted during a power disruption.

14. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, further comprising a visual alert device in communication with the electronic circuit and positioned on the housing so as to be externally visible during operation, the visual alert is configured to visually indicate when a power disruption occurs.

15. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, wherein the visual alert device comprises a light emitting diode, and wherein the device is configured to delay generating the audible alert until power is disrupted for greater than a predetermined time.

16. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 15, wherein the housing has a forward surface with a height and width defining a surface area that is less than about 14 in².

17. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 15, wherein the housing has a forward surface with a height and width, each being less than about 3 inches, and a depth of less than about 1 inch.

18. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 17, wherein the device without a battery weighs less than about 8 ounces.

19. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 18, wherein the device with a battery weighs less than about 8 ounces.

20. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is configured to connect to a wall panel outlet having a GFI circuit.

21. A power disruption alert device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is a single-use device that is disposable after a power disruption.

22. A method for generating an alert when power is disrupted to an electrical outlet, comprising:

mounting a self-contained power disruption alert device to an electrical outlet;
and

automatically generating an audible alert by the self-contained device when power to the electrical outlet is disrupted.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the mounting step is carried out by mounting the device to a wall panel outlet having a GFI circuit.

24. A method according to Claim 22, further comprising moving the alert device to a different wall outlet by only unplugging and replugging in male conductors on the device as desired by a user.

25. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the device is devoid of externally extending wires.

26. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the alert device comprises a female electrical outlet disposed on an externally accessible portion thereof, the method further comprising inserting male conductors from a different device therein to electrically connect the different device male conductors to the underlying electrical outlet.

27. A method according to Claim 22, further comprising determining the time duration of the power disruption and displaying the determined time duration.

28. A method according to Claim 27, further comprising resetting a timer and/or clearing a display.

29. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the automatically generating the audible alert comprises transmitting a pre-recorded voice message.

30. A method according to Claim 22, further comprising generating a visual alert to visually indicate when a power disruption occurs.

31. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the alert device has a forward surface with a height and width, each being less than about 3 inches, and a depth that is less than about 1 inch, and wherein the alert device without a battery weighs less than about 8 ounces.

32. A method according to Claim 22, further comprising disposing of the alert device after a single power disruption occurs and the audible alert is generated.

33. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the automatically generating an audible alert comprises delaying generating the alert until power is disrupted greater than a predetermined time duration.